

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 14, 2005

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A. M. meeting to order, and after establishing a quorum being present welcomed everyone. Captain Mark Gilliam, The Salvation Army, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the Houston County Commission is the awarding authority on the statewide county bid that the ACCA puts out and those bids would be opened that day and then would be awarded at the next meeting on November 28th.

The chairman congratulated the Pansey Volunteer Fire Department regarding their obtaining a 6/9 ISO rating and stated that is outstanding on their behalf. He reported they continue to see all of the volunteer fire departments work hard to obtain the ISO's as required by the funding the citizens of the county voted to put on and provide to them. He pointed out there is one left and they have some issues with water and they are working on it.

Chairman Culver congratulated everyone associated with the National Peanut Festival. He stated the weather was as good as it has been in many years. The chairman reported the volunteers did great, the crowds came out, and the parade was wonderful. He stated they look forward to it again next year.

The chairman reported for four years running Houston County has had the top roads in the state and they have received notification that this year the county has slipped to #2 by a small percentage point. He pointed out Montgomery County went ahead of us because they did a big bond issue and resurfaced every road in the county. Chairman Culver stated there are 67 counties in the state and there is nothing to be ashamed of about being #2 out of the group. He reported after having been #1 four years running we want to attain that rating next year. Mr. Pool stated the guys are still doing a good job. He reported in the letter from the state they said Houston County has had the highest average over the last five years of any county in the state. Mr. Pool reported more importantly it was lowering the death rate on the roads.

Mr. Pool introduced Mr. Barkley Kirkland, new Assistant County Engineer, and stated he is in charge of all their outside work. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Kirkland would be dealing with the public.

Chairman Culver reported the Chattahoochee State Park has started the disabled hunting and if someone is an authorized disabled person and would like to go down there they need to call the park to make a reservation. He pointed out the hunting is on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and the park will be closed to all other activities during those days. The chairman reported the season ends January 31st. Mr. Pool reported there were two different numbers to call for reservations, 699-3607 or 522-3607. He stated that all of the rules and regulations were on the web page.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Head Start Day” – Dr. Sam Nichols, Interim Superintendent, Dothan City Schools, and Ms. Virginia Singletary, Houston County Schools.

Chairman Culver called Ms. Virginia Singletary, Houston County Schools, and Mrs. Dell Goodwin, Dothan City Schools, to come forward and presented them with a Proclamation declaring “Head Start Day” in Houston County. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Goodwin to let Dr. Nichols know how much the county appreciates the city schools starting and supporting the Head Start Program. On behalf of the Houston County Board of Education, Ms. Singletary thanked the Dothan City Schools for the Head Start Program under the direction of Ms. Rebekah Troutman. She also thanked the commissioners for their support and invited them to drop by anytime. Mrs. Goodwin reported thousands of children have been served through Head Start and she asked the staff to stand.

2. Proclamation – “The Salvation Army” – Captain Mark Gilliam.

Chairman Culver asked Captain Mark Gilliam, The Salvation Army, to come forward and presented him with a Proclamation commending The Salvation Army. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported he had received their letter that he talked about on Thursday, and the commission is taking the challenge to ring the bell personally. He stated the commission needs to arrange a time to come out and collect for about 5 hours. Captain Gilliam reported the City Commission has set aside two days. Chairman Culver reported there are 7 of them and he stated last year Captain Gilliam did it on total money collected and it needs to be done on per unit. The chairman reported the main thing is to try to raise money for such a worthy cause.

Proclamation – “Farm City Week” – Mr. Richard Murphy, Chairman.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Willie Durr to come forward. He reported Mr. Durr is standing in for Mr. Murphy, the chairman. Chairman Culver asked members of the Farm City Week Committee to stand and he thanked them for their continued good work. Chairman Culver then presented Mr. Durr with a Proclamation declaring November 18-25, 2005, as “Farm City Week” in Houston County. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Durr thanked the commission for their involvement and support in showcasing an industry that is vital to our area. He pointed out this event kicked off in early October with a tour of the McCallister Farm. Mr. Durr reported our farmers are the most efficient in the world and produce the safest foods. He urged everyone to buy local.

4. Employee of the Month – Road & Bridge.

Mr. Pool asked Mr. Randy Perrin to come forward and presented him with the “Employee of the Month” Certificate. Mr. Pool reported Mr. Perrin has been employed with the county since 1972, and is currently a block mason. He stated Mr. Perrin does a great job, and he probably should have already presented him with the certificate. Mr. Perrin reported when he started in 1972, the pay scale was \$3.25 per hour. He stated he plans to retire because he can draw more retired than he can working. He thanked the commission for the award. Mr. Perrin received a round of applause. Chairman Culver stated the county appreciates anyone who has worked for 32 years.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to appoint Dr. Stephen Chastain to fill unexpired term on Wiregrass Mental Health Board.
2. Request to appoint Mr. Richard Murphy to fill unexpired term on Houston County Water Authority.
3. Request to award bids on Pharmaceutical Supplies to low bidder meeting specs.
4. Request to reject sole bid on CCTV Upgrade for Community Corrections and negotiate.
5. Request to award bid on concrete to low bidder meeting specs.
6. Request to take bids on computer for Houston County Water Lab.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to change Administrative meeting to November 23rd due to Thanksgiving holiday.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to change the Administrative meeting to November 23rd due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to cancel December 26th Commission meeting.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to cancel the December 26th Commission meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to update Resolution concerning Flood Insurance Program.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Womack and Mr. Sherrer have worked on this and there are only a few minor changes that need to be made. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to update the Resolution concerning the Flood Insurance Program. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question on the motion and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to submit polling place changes for the Water and Electric Complex, Bay Springs, and Rehobeth to the Justice Department.

Chairman Culver reported the recommendation after several public hearings involves two issues. He stated that there are too many voting at the Water and Electric Complex. He stated the suggestion is to change the precinct lines to make them coincide with the county commission district lines. The chairman reported that will move all the voters that live in Chapelwood and the Highlands over to Westgate. He stated the proposed change will free up around 2,600 voters from the Water and Electric Complex. Chairman Culver pointed out a few people who live in the City of Dothan who vote at Bay Springs will also be moved to Westgate. The chairman reported before the election everyone will be notified as to where their new voting place will be. Chairman Culver reported a tornado destroyed the former polling place at Rehobeth, and there has been a temporary change to the Community Center and this would make the change permanent at the City Hall. He pointed out the Town of Rehobeth's council had met and voted to make the permanent voting place at City Hall. He asked if

Judge Cooley wanted to make any comments. She stated no. The chairman called for a motion. Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the changes as proposed and to become effective upon receipt of a notice of a pre-clearance from the Justice Department. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this does not include closing of any polling places in Houston County at this time. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver thanked Judge Cooley, Ms. Susie Shepard, Mrs. Susan Johnson, and other staff members for all of their hard work.

5. Request to approve RV hook-up camping at Chattahoochee State Park – \$15.00 per night.

Chairman Culver called on Mr. Pool for any comments. He stated they were waiting on Mr. Sean Curtis and his crew to finish their part. The chairman stated a general announcement will be made to the public once the hook-ups are completed and available for use. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to proceed with the RV hook-up camping at Chattahoochee State Park and charge \$15.00 per night. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve horseback riding at Chattahoochee State Park - \$2.00 per horse in addition to entrance fee.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve horseback riding at the Chattahoochee State Park at a rate of \$2.00 per horse in addition to the entrance fee. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Pool stated people could begin horseback riding on Wednesday, November 16th. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported the Safety Committee had completed the OSHA Standard Training portion and also the Job Site Evaluation training. He stated classes went well and felt there is a good nucleus, and everyone participated fully. Mr. Roberts pointed out that he thought there is real interest in the group to do a good job on safety. He reported the committee will meet monthly until such time as they felt they need to change.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported the commission needs to vote on the letter in the packet regarding the Rehobeth voting place. He stated the commission needs to vote on paying for the asphalt out of the General Fund. Chairman Culver stated the request from Rehobeth was to move the voting place and do some work. Mr. Pool reported traditionally, the commission has helped with the paving for the handicapped parking at a voting place even though there is no policy. The chairman reported the driveway at the Rehobeth Town Hall is gravel and at all voting places, the commission usually makes improvements and absorbs most of the cost for those improvements. He stated that the county is currently working out there, and since it is a voting place the county will cover the cost of materials. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the county paying for the cost of the materials for improvements at the Rehobeth Town Hall. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded. Chairman Culver stated this would include the appropriate budget amendment. Mr. Roberts stated that in this case, money is appropriated in the budget to cover general funds projects that are provided by road and bridge and this would be well below the monies that are already budgeted. He reported if the commission needs to, they could come back later in the year. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney

Mr. Sherrer reported the only thing lacking in regard to a settlement on the courthouse is the wording on a Moisture Control Warranty. He stated it is a very important warranty and the bonding company wants to indemnify us with regard to that warranty itself rather than having and taking bids from a moisture control company of some kind. He reported getting the wording correct with regard to moisture control is obviously very important. Mr. Sherrer reported the architect is obtaining some language in that regard. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sherrer if he believed it would be done by the next meeting? Mr. Sherrer stated he was not going to promise to jump out of any windows if it was not ready.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snellgrove; and it carried unanimously.